

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown.

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1. (Currently Amended and Withdrawn) A ~~[[a]]~~ multiplex communication method comprising:
- determining a transmitting node obtaining a transmission right based on a token circulated among said plurality of nodes;
  - transmitting data by specifying another specific node as a transmission destination from the node obtaining said data transmission right;
  - receiving the data transmitted from the node obtaining said data transmission right; and
  - storing said received data in a storage area corresponding to said node of the data transmission originator within a plurality of storage areas, wherein each of said plurality of nodes having a storage unit including said plurality of storage areas for each storing the data transmitted from the other plurality of nodes.

2. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, comprising:

correlating said plurality of said storage areas with Ids of said plurality of nodes including own node; and

using the said storage area corresponding to ID of own node as a storage area of data to be transmitted from itself.

3. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 2, further comprising transmitting data to the others nodes, said node receiving token automatically transmitting data every time in receiving the token by selecting each one of a first transmission mode of transmitting data to the other nodes using said storage unit or a second transmission mode of transmitting data to the other nodes without using said storage unit.

4. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
assigning IDs to said plurality of nodes according to a predetermined order;  
indicating a node assigned to the last of the order that said node have the last of the order; and  
setting the destination to which the token is passed at the head of the order in the indicated node in said indicating step and  
setting the destination to which said token is to be passed at ID of the node adjoining to the node assigned to itself on said order in not indicated node in said indicating step.

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said storing step including storing temporarily data to the temporary buffer before to said storage area corresponding to said transmitting node.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising:  
judging whether or not there is an error in the data stored in said temporary buffer based on an error check code; and

transferring the receiving data to said corresponding storage when there is no error in said judging step.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 6, further comprising acknowledging an error by not returning ACK to a transmission originating when it is detected that there is the error in the node specified as the transmission destination.

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising notifying a data receiving acknowledge message to said transmission originating by only node specified as the transmission destination.

9. (Amended and Withdrawn) [[a]] A multiplex communication method comprising:  
determining a transmitting node obtaining a  
transmission right based on a token circulated among said plurality of nodes;  
transmitting data by specifying another specific node as a transmission destination  
from the node obtaining said data transmission right;  
adding an error check code to a transmission data;  
checking the receiving data based on said error checking code;  
coding the transmission data in CMI;  
transmitting the data coded in CMI; and  
decoding the transmitted data at a node receiving the data.

10. (Currently Amended and Withdrawn) [[a]] A multiplex communication method comprising:  
determining a transmitting node obtaining a

transmission right based on a token circulated among said plurality of nodes;  
transmitting data by specifying another specific node as a transmission destination  
from the node obtaining said data transmission right;  
acknowledging the token passing by the node to which said token is passed; and  
passing the token by a predetermined number of times by the token passing  
originating when there is no acknowledgment of passing.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[a]]~~ A multiplex communication method comprising:

determining a transmitting node obtaining a data  
transmission right based on a token circulated among ~~said~~ a plurality of nodes;  
transmitting data by specifying another specific node as a transmission destination  
from the node obtaining said data transmission right;  
obtaining clock information by a node having said data transmission right; and  
adding the obtained clock information to a data to be transmitted.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising selecting each of a  
first mode of transmitting by adding clock information or a second mode of not adding clock  
information.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

determining a clock master for providing a reference clock in advance among said  
plurality of nodes;  
transmitting data including the clock information by said clock master;

receiving the clock information within the data transmitted from said clock master  
by the nodes other than said clock master; and

adjusting ~~own~~ an internal clock according to the reference clock indicated by the  
received clock information.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

inputting data to be transmitted to the other nodes from the outside in each of said  
plurality of nodes; and

writing the data to be inputted by dividing into a plurality of times, wherein data  
being rewritten is not transmitted when data is transmitted during the plurality of times of  
writing.

15. (Currently Amended and Withdrawn)[[a]] A multiplex communication method  
comprising:

determining a transmission right based on a token circulated among said plurality  
of nodes;

transmitting data by specifying another specific node as a transmission destination  
from the node obtaining said data transmission right;

transmitting the same data twice from the node obtaining said data transmission  
right;

comparing the data transmitted whether said data coincide in the receiving node;  
and

receiving one of said data transmitted twice as receiving data only when said data coincide.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein said node is an electronic control unit for controlling a predetermined mechanism of a vehicle.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16, wherein a communication protocol having no priority is used in the communication between the nodes.

18. (Currently Amended and Withdrawn) [[a]] A multiplex communication device comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting data by specifying another specific node as a transmission destination from a node having a transmission right determined by a token circulated among a plurality of nodes;

storage means having a plurality of storage areas for storing data transmitted by the other nodes, respectively;

receiving means for receiving the data transmitted by the other node regardless of the transmission destination; and

controlling means for storing said received data in a storage area corresponding to the data transmission originating node among said plurality of storage areas.

19. (Withdrawn) The multiplex communication device according to Claim 18, wherein said node is an electronic control unit for controlling a predetermined mechanism of a vehicle.

20. (Withdrawn) The multiplex communication device according to Claim 19, wherein a communication protocol having no priority is used in the communication between the nodes.

21. (Withdrawn) A multiplex communication system comprising:
- a plurality nodes;
  - a token circulated among said plurality of nodes;
  - transmitting means for transmitting data to specifying another specific node as a transmission destination from a node having a transmission right determined by said token;
  - a storage unit having a plurality of storage areas for storing data transmitted by the other plurality of nodes, respectively,
- wherein the node specified as the transmission destination and each node not specified as the transmission destination comprise: a receiving unit receiving the data transmitted by the node which has obtained the data transmission right; and
- a storing unit storing said received data in a storage area corresponding to the data transmission originating node among said plurality of storage areas.
22. (Withdrawn) The multiplex communication system according to Claim 21, wherein said node is an electronic control unit for controlling a predetermined mechanism of a vehicle.
23. (Withdrawn) The multiplex communication system according to Claim 22, wherein a communication protocol having no priority is used in the communication between the nodes.
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